# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# AGRICULTURE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4725
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2001
PRODUCTION OF GOLDEN RICE
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government propose to produce genetically modified `Golden Rice` which is enriched with Vitamin-A;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the programme currently undertaken by the Government to produce such enriched varieties of plants and foodgrains?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c): The Department of Biotechnology and Indian Council of Agricultural Research are jointly working towards finalisation of a proposal with Swiss Department regarding research programme to be undertaken for producing `Golden Rice` which is rich in Vitamin A. Presently, the genetically engineered `Golden rice` is in the genetic background of Japonica rice, which is not preferred in a tropical country like India therefore there is need to develop pro-vitamin A rich rice varieties of local interest, which are consumed by masses in India.

Under the project, it is proposed to introduce genes encoding beta carotenoid into Indian rice lines through genetic transformation as well as introgression breeding without affecting the other agronomic traits. The rice lines finally developed through research will be tested for their toxicity, allerginicity and nutritional impact as well as other agronomic parameters before it is made available for general cultivation.